

MINUTES

Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities

Regular Meeting - Tuesday January 25, 2011

2:30 PM - Conference Room B - Audrey P. Beck Building

- I. Recording Attendance: Chair W. Gibbs called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.

Present: K. Grunwald (staff), W. Gibbs (Chair), C. Colon-Semenza, J. Blanshard, J. Tanner, K.A. Easley (staff).

Regrets: G. Bent, J. Sidney

- II. Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the meeting of November 23, 2010 (December meeting cancelled) were accepted as written.

III. New Business

- a. Mansfield Downtown Partnership Update- Cynthia Van Zelm provided an update on Storrs Center and distributed drawings for Phases 1A and 1B. These phases include rental apartments and commercial space. There will be a public hearing at the Bishop Center on Feb. 1 regarding

the proposed design. Construction would begin in 2012. Several businesses have signed letters of intent to be included in phase 1A. All floors will be served by elevators; Cynthia identified accessible parking spaces, and a concern was raised that there may not be enough, and that they may not be appropriately located. C. Colon-Semenza and J. Tanner made several constructive suggestions about parking options. All housing units are adaptable for handicap use, and some will be built as accessible. There will also be accessible spaces on the street and in the parking garage. Construction will be starting in May of this year. K. Grunwald pointed out that one challenge is that as a “walkable community” parking becomes a critical issue.

- b. Recommendation of a representative to the Human Services Advisory Committee: J. Blanshard expressed interest in serving on that committee.
- c. “Other”: none.

IV. Old Business

- a. Proposed Brochure: group agreed to have the brochure available for the presentation at the Senior Center on Feb. 23.
- b. Publicity efforts/Community Presentation: C. Colon-Semenza talked about the presentation at the Senior Center 2/23 at 12:45 to publicize the existence of the Committee and make people

aware of services that are available. She has contacted Jennifer Lortie at Eastern CT Assistive Technologies Center, and Cristina be talking about the services offered through the Nayden Clinic. K. Grunwald will see if Gianna Stebbins can talk about transportation services. J. Blanshard is willing to talk about Peapod grocery delivery. C. Colon-Semenza will contact ATG and Hudson Rehab. who are distributors for durable medical equipment. She will also check with Storrs Drug and Medical Pharmacy. J. Blanshard will try to get someone to speak on services for the blind. W. Gibbs will provide an overview of the work of this committee. We will give representatives a brief opportunity to present their services and then they will be set up to distribute brochures and answer questions. K. Grunwald will write a press release and distribute this; will also provide information on the Disability Advocacy Collaborative. Get back to Cristina by 2/15 to confirm the speakers via email.

c. Accessibility issues previously identified:

W. Gibbs checked at UConn and discovered that the handicapped parking violations is \$130.

K. Grunwald has submitted a work order to Facilities Maintenance to have the parking signs put up.

K. Grunwald distributed a draft letter to the Town Council concerning the proposed walkway from Sycamore Dr. The group approved the letter and it was signed by W. Gibbs.

J. Tanner did not contact the chancellor at the state university system re: her concerns, but she will pursue this.

V. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.
The next meeting scheduled is February 22, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald